THE SAILOR'S WOOING

The fire! that fire, for Ged's sake, Mr. Westwood, else I am lost! 'called out Sir Charles, in a calm distinct key from where he stood with his eye fixed on the elephant, and could see me, too—a moment or two before the huge round-backed lump of a brute came running round into the track, stumbling heavily up the dead branches of the fallen trees and the dry guineagrase, with a savage roar between his two white tusks—and I saw what the Judge meant, just in time to throw over the whole heap of flaming excent the hugh among the withered grass and stuff a few vards before the monster, as dry as a tinder, while the light air coming down the gully of the mountain, drove it spreading across his course up through the twigs, and sweeping in one sudden gust of fire up to the very end of his trunk. I saw it lift over the smoke like a black serpent, than another scream from the brute, and away he was charging into the hollow again, the flame licking up among the grass astem of him, and darting from one bough to another towards the canebrake below. I had scarce drawn a lotg breath, and remembered the devil's own thought that had come into my head when the Judge called to me, ere he alapped me on the shoulder. 'You did nebly there, my dear boy," said Sir Charles; "managed it well! 'Gad, it was a crisithough, Mr. Westwood!" "I'm afraid, however, sir," said I, eyeing the crackling bashes, smoking and whitening to a dead smoulder in the sunlight, then flashing farther down as the hill-breeze rustled off "I'm afraid we shall have the woods burning about our ears!" Down we hurried accordingly, and bailed the cutter, where scarce had we lessure to pass a few quick words and tumble in, before I heard a shout beyond the other turn of the creek, through the end of the lagoon; then something like the cheep of ropes through blocks, with the bastle of men's feet on a deck, and next minute a paffect habbab of cries, whether Dutes, Fourguese, English, or all togesher, I couldn't say—only it wasn't likely the last would kick up such a both at of a port, and a fellow blowing the red end of his match behind it. All at once the chorus of shouts and cries ceased, and a single voice man out along the water, clear, s.ern, and tartling, in bad Portuguese, "Queren siete?" who are you? Still we gave no answer, quietly showing off as fast as we could, the flicker of the fire in the brake behind the trees beginning to the fire in the brake behind the trees beginning the fire in the brake behind the trees beginning to show itself through the black shade of the lagoon. "Queren side?" sang out the voice, louder than before, in a threatening way, and the logs were knocking and plashing before the schooner as the Kroomen hauled at them to make an opening. "Amigos! Amigos!" hailed we in return; "Ingleses, gentlemen!" shouted the cadet who knew Portuguese, calling to them not to fire for heavensake, else they would do us some harm. With this, the hubbub was worse than before; they plainly had some design on us, from the confusion that got bub was worse than before; they planty has some design on us, from the confusion that got up; but by that time we were pulling hard into the narrow of the riwer, and took the fair cur-rent of it as soon as the boat was past the fall-ing stream we had seen before, till we were

ing stream we had seen before, till we were round into the next reach.

In fact the rate we all bent our backs at this time, was pretty different from coming up; the cadets seemed hardly to feel the heat, fierce and close though it was, at thought of those that might be in our wake, and nobody spoke a word at ease till at last, after an hour's hard word, taking it in turns, we came full in sight of the Indiamsn at her anchor on the bread current. The ladies blessed the very ropas hanging from her bow-prit, and we got safe aboard, where we found the two other beats had come back long before; and every one of us turned in directly after sundown, as tired a dogs.

had come back long better; and every attends in directly after sundown, as tired a dogs.

Well, I didn't suppress I had slept an hear, dreaming terribly wild sort of areams about Violet Hyde and elephants, then that I'd saved her myself, and was abouing to king bar, they have the Fortuguese rascal gave her, canted a little over to starbeard, away from the shore; and till morning flood nothing could be done to hand till morning flood nothing could be done to hand her off. The fog was rolling down with the land-breeze, and the jabber in the woods, again, thickened the confusion; when all at once a dim flash off the shore gimmered in the white fog, and a round shot whistled just astern, pretty well simed for her bilige, which would have cost us some work if it had hit. After that, hawever, there was no more of it, the fellow probably having spent either all his powder or his balls. As for his fort, I heard the chief officer swearing he would knock it about his ears next day—a thing that couldn't have done him much harm, cartainly, unless mud were dear.

No sconer had the men gone below, leaving the crdinary anchor-watch, than Mr. Finch, to my great surprise, walked up to me, and gave

me a strange suspicious look, hinting that he began to have a good guess of what I really was, but if anything new of the kind turned up, said he, he should know better what to say to me. "Mr. Finch," said I, starting, "this won's do, air-you'll either speak your mind before cabic and cuddy, or to-morrow morning, you'll go quietly schore with me, sr, as I think, now you remind me of it, we settled to do, already!" The mate's face whitened, and he eyed me with a glare of malice, as I turned on my heel and began to walk the quartar-deck till he went below.

However, the thought of the thing stuck to me, and I kept walking in the dark to get rid of it; the four or five mon of the an har-watch shaffling lazily about, and all thick save ahead up the river, where the land-breeze blew pretty strong, bringing new and then a faint gleam out of the mist.

of the mist.

I was leaning against the fore chains, listening to the obb-tide, and thinking; when I saw one of the men creeping in from the bowsprit, which you just saw, where it ran up thick into the dusk, with scarce a glimpse of the jib-boom and flying jib-boom, beyond. The sailor came up touching his hat to me, and said he thought he saw something queer off the boom end. "Well," said I gruffly, "go and tell your mate then."

I didn't know the fellow's voice, thouge it had a particular twang in it, and he wasn't in Jacobs'

watch, I knew.
"Why, your honor," he persisted, "I knows
pretty well what you air—asking your parion,
air—but I think you'd make more out of it nor
any of the mates! It's sum'at rather skeary, sir!"
added he.
Accordingly I took hold of the man-ropes and

ewing myself up the bowsprit, and had my feet on the footrope below the jib boom, when I heard his breath, following behind me.

"Never you treuble yourself, my man," said I; "one at a time, and back he went in board again—for something curious in his way struck me, but I wanted to see what he meant.

I had just got near the flying jib, half stowed in as it was on the boom, and I fancied, with a creep of my blood in me, I made out a man's head over the sail; but next moment a hand like a vice raught me by the throat, and some one growled out: "Now ye infarnal man o'-war hound, I have ye, and down ye goes for it!"

The instant I felt it, my coolings, came head.

the woods, or handed me over to some of these villainous blacks with the filed teeth; and sering patam must be gone, however kow how long! Suddenly, as if to clinch my notion, I started for a moment at the load cry of a bell-bird, as I thought at first; but the next instant a sort of a thick crust seemed to clear off my hearing, and I knew it was "two bells" going on deck, so that I was still on board; after which a regular bestle got up of a sudden overhead. I heard people running up the nearest ladder from below; cadets shouting and clattering, apparently with muskets and catlasses; the creak of the davit-blocks letting down the boats, and the chief officer's voice alongside. What with my broken head, though, and the want of air and water, I feit too sick to give them a thought. It wasn't long, either, before the whole Indiaman seemed to be as quiet as a church, except one heavy pair of feet on the quarterdeck above; then that stopped as well, and I heard nothing but the dull sound of the tide through her thick outer-timbers, gurgling up and poppling along, like to make me mud for thirst. I put up my hand to my head, and found my hair on one side all sticky, and overed with cockroaches; but though all vered with their pincers into the wours, I was too woak to keep brushing them a-ay as fast they swarmed about it. It must here been rather some sort of swoon than a dose that I woke out of again when I heard a man's voice not far off, through the stillness of the tween decks, reading aloud, which I soon brushing them a - ay as fast they swarmed about it. It unst he - e been rather some sort of swoon than a dow that I woke out of again when I head a man's voice not far off, through the stillness of the 'ween decks, reading aloud, which I soon made out to be Mr. Knowles' the missionary's and, from the key of it, 'twas evidently the Bible he was reading. In a little while he gave up, and another voice came in, that I know still better. It was Violet Hyde's—low enough, but so clear at times, that it seemed to come into the dark where I lay half senseless, and afterwards I could even call back some of the very words; then it came to a stand, and I heard her two or three times apparently answering some one I couldn't hear. All at once, the missionary struck up the first no e of a psalm tune, and her levely voice slid into it, till there was nothing in the whole ship, as it were, but that—singing the clid Evening Hymm—alone. Such music, I thought, never was on sea or land—when down from some opening above, out of heaven, you might have fancied, fell a chorus like the sounds of angels and cherubs joining in at the end, once and again; catching up the air out of her sweet tongue, and drowning it in a way to ravish one's out, till tank into a bush in which you could hear the missionary's voice rise, as he prayed aloud over the whispers of the ladies and children stealing away from around the skylight—with the slight creak of the rudder, now and then, in its case abaft, and the tide bumping and tapping outside, from the deadwood at her counter to the hollow planking amid-ships.

As for me, at first blush I theught it all part of my queer visions, till somehow or other I began to revive a bit, and felt for the door of the place they had boxed me up into. However, it was fastenough, and as soon as I tried to stand upright, something over my head gave me a shove down again—it being evidentive one of the steward's store-rooms abaft of the cuddy, full of bigs and such like lumber, where the best I could do was to strete mysel

ber, where the best I could do was to stretch myself on the heap of old canvass again, groaning from sheer weakness and despiration. Jut then I heard a light step coming close past the doer, out of the large cabin, and I gave another groan. A dress rustled, and the foot started to the other side of the passage. "For God's sake open the door!" side I, in a faint voice. "What—who—is there?" exclaimed Miss Hyds, anxiously; but my mouth was so dry I couldn't answer her. Next moment she was trying the or two, however, for I heard the missionary's voice still praying beside Captain Williamson's cot, when a gush of air suddenly revived me, and I sat up winking at a glare of light, in which Violet Hyde's face seemed to be hovering brighter than the lamp she had in her two hands, as she stood and gazed at me between wonder and dismay; while the ste ward held the door only half open behind her, preping in at me with one eye like a follow watching a hyena in a cage. "Miss!—miss!" said he, trying to shove the door to again, "take care—ho's a pirate, ma'am, he is! The chief officer 'il blow me up for it, your ladyship!" "Mr. Westwood!" exclaimed she, pushing it wide in spite of him, "what—what is this!—you are alt over blood, Mr. Westwood! Ob, are you wounded?—what can be—run run for semething," said she to the steward—"where is the surgeon?" "The doctor's gone with the rest of 'em, miss," said he. With this I took hold of something to scramble up.

run for something, "said she to the steward—
"where is the surgeon?" "The doctor's gone
with the rest of 'em, miss," said he. With
this I took hold of something to scramble up,
bringing down a bag of cabin biscait over me,
and got on my logs in the midst of the dust;
but grim snough I must have looked, with my
face like a North American Indian's, and the
cockroaches sticking in my hair, as I stumbled
out of the corner. The little cockney of a steward seemed to think me dangerous, for all I saw
of him next moment was his striped
gingham jacket vanishing round a bulkhead aft. "Oh," stammered I, leaning
against the door-post, "it's-it's nothing,
after all—only—a little water!" The truth
was, my brain felt so confused still, that I really
was not quite sure how the case stood—whether
I hada't in fact bowsed up my jib toe taut that
night, and tumbled on my head, or kicked up
some row or other—so I suppose I must have
looked rather ashamed, which the young lady
appeared to notice, by the expression of her face
as she moved toward the cuddy, and slipped
quietly through one of the folding-doors.
"Hush!" said she gravely, holding up her
finger, as she came out again and closed it,
carrying a couple of decanters and a glass;
"poor Captsin Williamson seems asleep—he
was removed there this evening for air," As I
drank one tumbler of water after another, I
fancied the yound lady watched me curiously;
however, I had scarce quenched my thirst, when
my own ideas got clear enough, as well as my
tongue, to give an off hand account of what had
happened. Violet Hyde started, and her voice
faltered as she said, "Then—then you must
have been shut up here all day—oh, how cruel
of them! so hot, too! Oh, what a wonder you
were not actually—" "All day!" said I—
"what day is it, then, Miss Hyde?" "It is
Sunday evening!" answered she, the tears
rushing somehow or other in her eyes. "Oh,
how glad I am that I haspened to pass! But
your head—what a dreadful wound you must
have got, Mr. Westwood!" continued ahe;
"something must be done to a particular twang in it, and he wasn't in Jacobs'

"Never you truble yourself, my man," said to to "out on the back he went in board again—for something curious in his way struck me, but I wanted to see what he meant.

I had just get near the flying, jib, half stowed in as it was on the boom, and a fancied, with a creep of my blood in me, I made out a man's head over the sail; but next moment a hand like a vice saught me by the throut, and some one growled out: "Now yo infarmal man of war hound, I have ye, and down ye grees for it!"

The instant I fell it, my coolnes, came back; as for grappling, I couldn't, and the ebb current ran below to hear half an hour. I saw the whole plot in a twinkling, and never moved; insend of that if gave a sort of laugh, and followed the husky want for the other man to a tee.

"He won't come, Harry, my lad!" said I, and say ugly friend let go before he had time to think twice.

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"He won't come, Harry, my lad!" said I, and say ugly friend let go before he had time to for hear say, and cown he slipped, hanging by a clutch of the sail.

"I suppose, my fine fellow," said I, "you forgot Fernande Po, and those nigger adventures of yours—eh?" and I went in without more sade.

I hadn't been ten minutes on deck, however, when I heard both of them swearing something to the shore. You're in arrest come at the lowsprived, my man and my land the show, "I start be howeprived, making signals or something to the shore. You're in arrest acros, sir, and no more about it."

"What!" said I, my bleed up, and pulling out a pair of pocket pisted, in a minute of the heard both of them swearing something to the shore. You're in arrest acros, sir, and no more about it."

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"Do you think it will be long before we shall hear them?" said she, next moment. "Who? — whom?" said she, next moment. "Who? — whom?" said she, couling not save known they had gone, Mr. Westwood! Tell me, Mr. Westwood," said she, coming nearer to me, putting her hand lightly on my arm, and glancing into my face—"tell me, did you not know that that vesseel was in the river?" "Yeesel, Mise Hyde?" I said, looking at her steadily in turn; "it's all one riddle to me—what vessed do you mean, madam?" "The—the pirate!" exclaimed she preaches, and turning towards the hatchway again, while I stood eveing her stupidly, all abroad, so to speak. "For heaven's sake, tell me what yor mean, Miss Hyde!" said I, putting my hand to my head. "Ah, but you look so white—you are not well yet, sir!" said she, sofily. "To think hew all the passengers were amused, and even papa too, when they heard this morning of your being arrested as a — a —but nobody could knew you were so hurt, Mr. Westwoo!! Then when some of the sailers came back, and said they had seen the French ship in disguise—" "By Jupiter! the brig trey mean?" I broke out. "Thon, good heaven-! they mut have painted her lead-color, and turned her be ck into a schooner! That was she for a thousand!" "And you know yesterday morning, sir," continued the young lady. "you told me you kng."

into a schoons? That was she for a thousand!"
"And you know yesterday morning, sir," continued the young lady, "you told me you kng, our friends were there, instead of being lithere we thought!" 'Yes, yes!" said from—out must be some bad scheme at the mm, for cerby morning we'll bave a slep awhy," said Miss tain. For my part I feel "me, "almost every-Hyde, turning anxious edirectly. Whenever body in the ship have seen there was such the truth was mongst the gentlemen end a confusionant they could not think of anything of and, as soon as the sun had set, they thing wisd into the beats, and went away to all wisded into the beats, and went away to all conficers at they could not think of anything of and, as soon as the sun had set, they thing of the conficers and the beats, and went away to all conficers are the prates in the dark." Good God!" exclaimed I, in steer am szement, and making toward the hatchway. "Miss Hyde! do you say so!—How many were there, and making toward the hatchway. "Miss Hyde! do you say so!—How many were there, thos, ma'am?" I asked. "Oh," said she quickly, "I am so glad there was such a number—five boa's quite full, I believe. Not a single gentleman would stay, except little Toamy's father, who is up stairs,—and paps was one of the first to get down into a boa', with bis rifle. But do you not think," added she, with somewhat of a tremble in her voice—"de you not think the people is the French ship will yield, or at least give our friends up?"

"I hope to gooiness they may," said I, turning away from the cagemess those soft eyes of hers gillatered with, as she leant out before the ing away from the eagerness those soft eyes or hers glittered with, as see leant out before the faint glimmer through the cuddy door, the light of the lamp in her band shining bright over her hair and her shoulders; while the gloon, still-ness of the whole ship, below, made me think of the voice that had hailed us through the la-groon, and the same man's face—as I had no

of the voice that had hailed us through the lagoon, and the same man's face—as I had no doubt now it was—when I saw it aboard the brig at sea, before the thunder squall came on.

I almost fancied I saw Finch and him meeting at the present moment, with the mates awkward look as the Frenchm in's sword flashed across him—my flugers gripped together for the handle of a cullass, to go tumbling up amongst the men over the schooner's bulwarks in the creek—when all at once another notion daried into my head, to remind me where we were in the mean time: I ran to the companion and sprang up the

men all at once another notion dar-ed into my head, to remind me where we were in the mean time; I ran to the companion and sprang up the stair on to the quarter-deck.

It was a hot, still night; but the change from the closeness below to the deck seemed to make quite a new man of one in an instant. I jumpel on the nearest carrot at estice, and looked road to see how the land lay, which at first was difficult enough to do. They had got the Indiaman fair affect again, I found, a little more off the shore, and further down—the starboard gun I stood upon being, as I guessed by the shape of the trees, about opposite the mud fort, which Finch had probably been peppering at as he threatened, a nee the port was open, and two or three shot lying in the scuppers beside it.

'Twas somewhere nigh hand eight o'clock of the evening, I think, and quite black on the nearest bank—you couldn't even make out the top of the woods against the sky; but another cable length would have served to open the lower reach of the river, where it came brimming up full round the point with the night flow, sending a floating sort of a glimmer along in the dusk over against us. One could even pitch upon a line where it ran side by side with the heavy shadow that took in the snip, going across to the swampy looking shore off our larboard side, and blackening away up stream, while the dim bubbles and eddies swept out of the one in o the other.

The was presented to wake up a chirping mutter in the dark amongst the grass and sedge along-shore, which seemed to wake up a chirping mutter in the bushes—and at times you'd have thought something came wading out from the edge; till in a few minutes both river and forest had sunk, as it were, into a sleep.

The quieter they got, however, the more unsers the first few with the same part of the same part of the same the river and forest had sunk, as it were, into a sleep.

in a few minutes both river and forest had sunk, as it were, into a sleep.

The quieter they got, however, the more uneasy I began to feel at the state I saw things in, upon deck; absolutely not a soul to be seen from wheel to bowsprit, except one man walking back and forward by himself on the forecastle, and the carefully and giving a look now and then carefully enough over at the cable: Mr. Brown being on the peop with his family and the knot of laties, talking under their brea h; while the old Scorch mate could be seen through the cabin skylight, leaning his bald crown over his two hands, under the lamp near the cap'ain's cot, to listen to mate could be seen through the cabin skylight, leaning his bald crown over his two hands, under the lamp near the captain's cot, to listen to the missionary, as he sat gravely whispering and looking at him through his spectacles.

For my part, I hadn't a doubt but the ship had been we tched from shore all along; and there was no saying at present who might be keeping an eye upon her, even if this affair of the Franch brig weren't to cater us in some deep trick or other. If it were really she, and lying where we caught a glimpse of her the day before, 'twould take three or four hours at night, even to pull there and back again; but as for her being an ordinary pirate, I had a strong notion she was ro such thing, and the stranger I thought the whole matter throughout.

As I peered over the bulwarks into the thick of the tall jungle, the showers of fire-flies came here and there filekaring out from un fer the big leaves, lizzing up the green of them for a moment, and dancing across a black mouth in the bank nearest us, like emerald sparks. By this time, too, the starlight was growing large out over the dusk, till the whole height of the sky had heaved itself above our upper spars, clear as crystal, and sprinkled full ef soft silver poin s, that gathered and got brighter as you looked.

The flow of tide having of course set the In diaman's stern up stream, the ladies on the poop could be seen clustered across the taffrail, with the careful married gentleman in the middle of them more dignified than ordinary, as they one and all strained their eyes into the dusk before them; when one of the men came down the poop stairs behind me, and, on turning, I saw to my surprise that it was Jacobs, he being still mere astonished to see me on deck.

I soen found, to my great relief, too, that, what with the anehor watch and some lads, there were still seven or eight of the crew aboard, whom I advised him to get on deck, and make them keep a bright lookout—more especially as he was one of the boatswain's mates, and had charge of

and Den Jose, than of the French craft they would fancy a pirate, whatever might be her reason for stowing away Rollock and his companions—although I told Jacobs I had no doubt now but it was actually she.

"Ay, sy, sir," said Jacobs in a low voice, giving his trousers an uneasy hitch up, "not a doubt on it, Mr. Collins. Black Harry and his mates clapped eyes on her this forenoon, when they went up for water—so they said, anyway!" "What, Bob!" said I, starting, "was it that scoundre? Did they not see her then?"

"Well, sir," replied Jacobs, "as I crather."

"Jacobs! Jacobs!" I breaks out directly, "get every hand up on the fo kele at once, with every thing like arms you can find—for god-eaks look sharp, and then bear a hand here to have the carromades fore and aft run in, and stuffed full of so me old iron or other, as we can't have grape!"

Hurried as it was, I saw the whole thing—a regular deep-laid plot it seemed, too—and the first time I had seen light as to what the strange brig could be after.

Here had she dodged us, no doubt, for weeks; got hold of our friends by accident, which would give her a clue how to find us anywhere during too rest of our voyage, as we were too strong-handed for her then. Twas very likely they thought we should suspect something, and follow wherever they could manage to lure the Indiaman—or else posibly they had run into the river the very same day we did, and prhaps seen us out of the haze which hid the land from us that meraing; and new, if they had studied it for years, they couldn't have contrived a cleverer trap than this that Finch and the passengers had run their besids into, with more than a dozen mutinous 20g, at least, in their company, a prize like of East II diaman was worth stehing some Joule about, of course; "I knew, villar fancy a Bengal nature of course; "I knew, villar fancy a Bengal nature of course; "I knew, villar fancy a Bengal nature of the sent unto direated something like an understanding with the stranger's crew.

"Ay, ay, sir!" said Jacobs in answer to me; "how'ever, the first mate left word with Mr. Macleod he'd send up a rocket and a blue light in case of good success, or else come back with the boats"

n case of good success, or else come back with

"Heaven help them, Jacobs!" said I, taking a hasty turn or two, "for me can't. But there is something more horril in the matter than I fancied—only all we can do is to look to ourselves and the ship. Harkye, though, Bob," added I, I following him, "bring up the heef-kin, will ye? I feel terribly shurp-set, notwithstanding."

I come back and looked from the quarrerdock dewn the saylight, where the second mate still sat with his cibows on the table, apparently listening to the missionary; when the good man

sat with his elbows on the table, apparently listening to the missionary; when the good man suddenly took off his speciacles and peered under Macleod's broad his s, as an undernable snore broke out between them; then he gianced toward the captain, who seemed dozing in his cotraised his mild eyes for a moment through the opening up to the blue starry sky swimming out above, put on his spectacles again, and, taking up the Bible, he leave back in his chair to read, as if there were neither pirates, savages, ner aught a man need dread, in the world. "Strange!" I thought, "Yet, after all, isn't there a soul below there, ere a few hours, will go bigher aiof, that the smallest star that twinkles over the maintruck yonder? And who knows how many of us may.

kles over the maintruck yonder? And who knows how many of us may—"
However, I saw Jacebs hurrying aft again, and the rest coming up out of the fore peak; so hard te work we set for the best part of an hour, which it took us to get the guas on deck made serviceable, and to find powder enough. Not a cutlass or pistol was left on board, so we had only two or three axes and pikes, with a rusty mucket or two, and handspikes, certainly, to mare.

As soon as we had taken breath, "Now, Jacobs, my man," said I, "send out the boys to lose the jibs and fore-top-ail-let's hoist the yard, too, with the sails clued up—all ready for slipping her cable at five minutes' warning. It can't do any harm—and I've no more doubt," said I, "than if I saw it, we sha'll have that schooner coming down with the ebb upon us."
"Tide'll turn in little better nor an hour, sir," said Jacobs, when we had got this quietly done, "And by that time the breeze will be blowing with it," said I, "bringing down the fog, too, however—but keep a bright lookout aloft for the signal, Jacobs! If you see it, or the boats, good and well. But I tell you what it is, Jacobs," added I firmly, "should it be the schooner instead, that instant we must cut and run for it! I shail carry the ship out to see, if I can, as I I shall carry the ship out to sea, if I can, as I brought her in where we may have a better chance with her in the morning, or get clear off,

prhaps.

There being no more we could do, and having instructed Jac be to go down and rouse Mr. Macleod himself if he saw the signal, I kept stealing back and forward on one side of the quarter-

deck, alone.
The river was still as a mill pond, except The river was still as a mill pond, except where it trembled in long streaky gleams from the sky, else I should at once have slipped cable and begun to go down, leaving the boats to come after us, if they did come, as they best could. There wasn't a brea'h of air yet, either, save what seemed now and then to waft out of the trailers on the bank, meeting the warm steam that crept across from the mangioves on the opposite shore.

A hundred notions ran through my head, as I walked, of what might happen: whether the

A hundred notions ran through my head, as I waked, of what might happen: whether the boats would miss the schooner altogether, and she crop down upon us in the meantime, either by the creek or the river, or whether Foster and his crew of Wapping blackguards would carry out what I'd no count they had at heart. But at any rate, as for a set of passengers and merchant sailors catching an armed schooner asleep, with one like that Frenchman in her, I had his fierce dark face too much before me whenever I thought of him to fancy the thing for a moment. That thu man was in command of the strange craft, and had some scheme in hand he would stir heaven and earth to carry out, unless you ground his head to powder, was an idea that came shivering sharp into me, as I kept watching the dark mouth of the creek, astern, and the glimmering reach beyond—looking

ground his head to powder, was an idea that came shivering sharp into me, as I kept watching the dark mouth of the creek, astern, and the glimmering reach beyond—looking almost to see the schooner's bowsprit shoot out of one of them, tide or wind though there was none. Frigate to frigate in a breeze, in fact, I should have minded my weather-gage pretty cautiously with him, if a seaman he was; but if he were bent on having the old Seriegapatam at present, by heaved what I feared was worse than either plunder or walking the plank—seeing there was a prize the Judge had left on board, for which I felt a free-cruising captain would give all the tressures that fellows like Foster might think an Indian nabob had in his portmanteau.

In fact, I saw Violet Hyds moving restlersdy, two or three times, near the break of the poop, at she watched the dim opening astern, while her lady's maid kept close behind'ber, afraid to stay below; and waiting idle as I was, I almost began for the time to forget everything else that might be going on, at thought of her being only a few feet off, with no one by but the servant-maid. The touch of her soft hand about my head an hour ago came back on me, and the drowsy creeping kind of hush of the tropical night seemed to bewilder my senses at every rustle of her dress,—I shan't even deny that the notion seized me for half a minute, were the schooner to make prisoners of the boat's crew's, how I might carry the Indiaman out to sea, and go, Lord knows where with her. Then the diea of defending her, and saving her, made one wild with excitement—I felt as if I had the strength of twenty in me, almost longing to see the pirate's faces, especially the dark Fronchman's, and to wait till they came civee on, when we could let drive into them, expecting to find us helpless. I made up my mind that Mr. Brown there, and the missionary too, should work at a gun as soon as they were wanted—when, trip, trip, I heard her footstep coming down the poop-stair behind me, and stood trembling and tingling to my v

ords.
"Mr. Westwood," said her low sweet voice, "Mr. Westwood," said her low sweet voice, and I turned round. "Yes, madam," I answered, gulping down my breath. "Have you heard—do you see anything?" "They've scarce had time yet," said I; "of course the more cautious they are, the better!" "Oh," continued she, her hands clasping together, and the shawl falling half off her head to one shoulder—"the if there should really be bledded."

"Ay, ay, sir," said Jacobs in a low voice, giving his trousers an uneasy hitch up, "not a doubt on it, Mr. Collina. Black Harry and his mates clapped eyes on her this foremoon, when they went up for water—so they said, anyway!" "What, Bob!" said I, starting, "was it that scoundrel? Did they not see her then?" "Well. sir," replied Jacobs, "as I gather, 'twas rather one of her boats they fell ath art of, You'll mind Harry was in the cutter that time you boarded the brig at sea, Mr. Collins, a week or two gone—so, you see, he knowed one or two of the cre w at once; and in course, sir, comin across one another hereaway, they'u make shift to have a talk, but none on 'em ever guessed about our passengers bein' ahoard of her, till—""Did the follow himself think they were pirates, then?" saked I, more anxiously than before—a shivering dread of I didn't know what beginning to creep on me, as I turned suddenly round to eve the river glooming away up from the starlight, through into the blue heaps of "Why, sir," answered Jacobs hastily, "he's a desperate sort is that cre Foster, if it was ownly what I've heard him say, swinging sound as sleep in's hammock. I wouldn't tell as much otherways; but I tell ye what it is, sir, my mind misgived me of this overnight boat business! It's my soler notion, Leftenant Collins," gravely added he, seeing I still looked anxiously to him, "it's my notion, if that craft's sught of a pirate, than one on' om did o' taking you that clip with a handepike this morning, sir! As for this hare brig, Master Ned, your honor," coatinued he, "what did she do, but, to my fancy, she's kasped a sye on us ever since we first feature of the stranger of the stran

Oh, for kindness sake, Miss Hyde, pardon my boldness—but I couldn't let slip the only chance of telling you—it took me unawarsa, in fact! I'm not such a fool as to fancy that such a fellow as I can have the least hope in the world; but—but—." She stood quite still, not uttering a word, with her face turned from me; but I could notice the color was all come back to her cheek, and more—and saw the snining falls of her loose hair heaving on the besom of her white muslin dress, as it rose and fell gently. I leant over the bulwarks and ventured to look half round; when, oh heavens! how did my heart quicken in me tr see the least bit of a smile come over her lips, though her oyes were dropped the gun close by.

I can't say what I.—mit of the moment—enough to do, has started, drew the shaw! up where shoulders again, and seemed to recollect the whole case of the bouts with a shutder, as she glanced wildly again up the reach astess of us, bringing me to myself, too, at the same time; and I stood looking with her, insent to mark the first turn of the tide.

The next glance I caught from Violet Hyde showed nothing but the distress she was in; and I walked forward to hail Jacoba on the

The next glane I caught from Violet Hyde showed nothing but the distress she was in; and I walked forward to hail Jacobs on the fore-to-gallant yard, asking if he saw the signal yet. "No, no, sir!" answered he—"not a sign or it up to this time." So back again I went, gloomy enough myself, but trying to keep up my countenance, and saying I was sure we should see the boats come down with the tide when it turned. "Have you noticed the stars sloft, M as Hyde?" said I, in a cheefful way, to take off her thoughts till the upshot came; "they never saw these in Europe, nor a night like this!" She looked up, and for a moment or two the soft-blue dark of the hollow seemed to sweep round both of us, catching you up into it; the Milky Way falling over to westward, like a track astern of the great s'arseip down in the south; and Orion's figure to be low seemed to sweep round both of us, catching you up into it; the Milky Way falling over to westward, like a track astern of the great starsup down in the south; and Oriou's figure to be made out overhead, with the beit about him, stretching off west out of the Milky Way—the Eerpent streaming far up to his foot; then Mageilan's two shining birs of cloud, and the dim one, seaward. There were patches to be seen blacker than ink, too, where you seemed to look through the sky,—while every now and then a metsor shot far across it and fell, leaving a trail like a silver thread. 'Twas terrible, though, to see up into it, far away as they stood, and as steady as if we weren't there, when heaven only know what might come down river next half hour. I felt her shoulder touch me as she lent back—the starlight glistening in her blue eyes, and nothing but it be ween her lovely young face and the stars; and I con't know how, but it appears to me I thought during that half minute as I never thought before, and as if I looked off the other side of the world for the first time,—et you couldn't expect a fellow's brain to breed such notions in a merchantman's forecastle, or a frigate's steerage or gun room, as it did beside an Indiaman's bulwarks, entering for a moment or two into the very feelings of a creature like the Judge's daughter, when her warm breath almost lighted on his cheek!

Next minute I noticed over my shoulder, low down in the deep-blue swell of the south, where the five tright stars of the Southern Cross were gleaming nearly upright over the top of a coeoa-lump on the opposite bank, for all the world like seme diamond ornament; and I pointed it out to her, though I knew by the bearings of it how far the night had gone to-

top of a cocca-lump on the oppease bank, for all the world like some diamond ornament; and I pointed it out to her, though I knew by the bearings of it how far the might had gone toward the middle. Its top and bottom stars fished out of the pure face of heaven like jewels, each fit to buy the Great Megul ten times over. The dark fringes of her two eyes showed brown over the light in them, while it looked like the hearts in violet flowers as she turned. "At sea," said I, "see mids used to know by it when eight bells would come, to let us go below and turn in. Soon after you less sight of the Pole star you rise the Southera Cross—and the men had a notion it was a broach the Virgin Mary lest from her breast, in the daylight, ween she went up to heaven! "Twas her son gave it her, they fancied, but 'twas always to be found in the dark—though meanwhile 'its a sign to the Flying Lutchman, as he tries to weather the Cape, that he'll be forgiven at the day of judgmen: se that's the reason it has the power of showing what's o'clock until then, and why nis, I remember, when they were so unwilling of showing what so catek that the same and way nis, I remember, when they were so unwilling to part, it'— But she stopped with a blush, as her eye met mine; and we were both so confused that, before I knew, I found myself beginfused that, before I knew, I found myself beginning to stammer cut all manner of tender words, I daresay, and to whisper her first name reat her ear, she scarce seeming to mark the difference—in fact, one bewilfered sort of look was all she gave me at the moment, as if she were listening more to the hum rising out of the woods than to me. Once or twice the still ahine of the lamp up through the open skylight frame drew my eye to it in spite of me—it was the only light burning in the ship, and you saw the gleam of it from the starboard port window of the cuddy, drawn in as it was for air, thrown on the dusky water, not many fathems, apparently, off the jungly bank nearest the ship. I can't tell you how, but somehow or other the appearance of it there, like a yellow break in the misty shadow, letting one see the very froth floating over it, and the muddy tint of the river on its edges—with the hush below us in the cabin

its edges—with the hush below us in the cabin—awed me more than aught besides; and whether it was from mixing the thing with what happened afterwards, or how—perhaps the missionary moved inside—but when I noticed the gleam on the water quiver and darken for a moment, then shine out again, I felt I knew it was then the captain's spirit passed away. I slipped with a thrill of my blood to the skylight, and saw Macleod still asleep, the missionary settling his spectacles on his nose to read again, as if he had looked up too when I did; while the cot and bed-clothes were hanging white in the

and book-clothes were hanging white in the shade as before, except that the kness were drawn up, and the head turned away. He might be dozing, though it came into my head I had heard the captain say he should last till the turn of the tide; and in fact all the sick men I ever knew die, unless there was something uncommen, died as the ebb came on. As I stepped back to the young lady's side, I could mark the Southern Croes by the after edge of the main-mast, sparkling fairly upright above the cocoa-nut trees, and Orion high up nor west-ward seemed farther away—it was indischt. The thought flashed through me how something in the sky could draw up a man's soul, as the shot at his hanimock-foot would sink his body down deep through blue water at sea—but the first light plash of the ebb along-ide brought me back to the case in hand, and I gave Jacobs a qulet sign to look out sharp aloft.

"Hark!" whispered Violet Hyde, suddenly, glancing sideways to me with her ear eagerly toward the shore, and putting back her hair with one hand to listen—"what is that?" I thought at first I could see a stir along the thick alse bushes, and make out the rustle of leaves; but the land-breeze was sighing in puffs through them already, and the fog beginning to creep out from over the bank, as if to meet the middly sieam from the other side; till next minute I beard what she meant, like wild cries from human creatures, half-choked or out of breath, sounding along deep in the woods; then free out it rose in a clear chorus of savage screams and yells, and then seemed smothered again. Twas only a pack of jackals hunting from thick bush to opening, but Violet pressed closer to me as the deviish noise drew nearer the river; and suddenly my hand met hers—to say what I felt passes me—but the very next moment I had it fast clasped in my own, though I hadn't time enough to say what the thing was before the entire pack of throats reemed to break out right upon the bank a little higher up than the ship, bends, be find the ship, bends he from the s

down a 'opmast-backstay to my side; "they're cances, sir!"

"So they are !" said I, seeing a flourish of the paddles that betrayed them. "They're hanging on yet, though, to catch us napping—keep cool, Bob, my man," continued I, for my spirits rose, to find my fears mistaken as yet about our boars. "But the cable—the cable!" added I hastily,—"by George, they'll try to cut it, as sure as fate! Ready there—don't fire a shot till they're close—nothing but stupid nigger heathens after all, my lads! Quick, a couple of you," said I, "bowse up the jib at once, and down fore-topsail sheets—brace the yard sharp up, to cast her bead down if they do cut! If we go aground, Jacobs, we're gone!" Twas vain to think of hindering them, for as we were, and scarce alle to see what they did, for the forther the land-breeze already blew pretty fresh and the ebb rushing on her bows made the Indiaman heave to it as her jib rose from the boom. I had no time to stand upon ceremeny: to thick of the pilotage again, with the savages, the narrow channel in the dusk, and the breakers together, was quite enough. In the very rick of such a breathless moment, I had just fancied I caught the stroke of their paddles coming on—when all at once, out of the open cal in ekylight afe, rose a sound, the like of which I never heard in my life—between a yell and a cry—but the mouth of the skylight

their paddles coming on—when all at oace, out of the open cal in-kylight aft, rose a sound, the like of which I never he ard in my life—bet ween a yell and a cry—but the mouth of the skylight seemed to send it up higher than the mastheads, leud and long, into the slit of starlight between the fog. For a single second the marrow curdled in my bones, and I lost all thought even of the cances ahead, 'twas so unearthly; till, carching a glimpse of Violet's white figure crouching in terror to the roundhouse door, I rushed aft, and looked down at the cuddy. It was all black as midnight below, the stink of the swinging-lamp coming out; but by the horrible tumbling, staggering struggling sound inside you'd bave thought it full of some awful thing, doing God-knows what in the place—then a thump and a groan. I scarce believe I could have mustered heart to go down the companion and see—till next moment the Scotch mate's bare head and shoulders came thrus ing up out of the stair, wres'ling wildly with three or four pitch-black nakel figures—the narrow booby-batch hindering them from sticking together to him, except one that leapt out almost on his back, aiming a ficree stroke with a club a his skull. Quick as thought, however, my coolness came back to me, and I just sent the bullet from the sbp's musket I had sustched up, fair flash through his lungs, the blood spouting out of his mouth almost over us, as he spur round with he club in the air, and fell back—while coolness came back to me, and I just sent the bullet from the sh p's muskot. I had snatched up, fair flash through his lungs, the blood spouting out of his mouth almost over us, as he span round with his club in the air, and fell back—while smash after smash I brought the stock of my piece down on the crowns of others, trying to get on deck too thick together; and Macleod was doing the asmel ke a man, at the skylight, where they were catching at the edge of the frame. The shrieks of the ladies came off the peop above; and as for the men, they were dodging under the forecastle bulwarks as they fired at the cances ahead, from the spears and arrows that came whistling over, and quivering into the planks near me. What else the cursed wretches might be doing I didn't know, but I had no sooner managed to shove the scuttle over the booby-hatch, the second mate loading as fast as he could, and blazing away down into the skylight like a perfect devil, lighting up the black faces and sharp teeth of the savages below at every shot, rushing back—than I felt the Indiaman was broadside Offen the next reach with her jib and topsail full to the land breeze, i sprang back to beize the wheel, hiar which Violet Hyde stood covering with her two hands over her eyes, when in the midst of it all you may fancy my horror to catch a glimpse of one hideous back stealing round towards her in the shadow of the rounshouse, with a hatchet glesming in one hand and the other stretched out to clutch her. 'Pwas the work of a second. I made one leap, and barely caught the blow on my gun-stock, as he took hold of her dress; then over he and I roiled on the deck, first one uppermost, then the other, till I found his strength too much for me, breathless as I was. The fellow had his huge hand round my throat, choking me, and ready to spring up with the harchet in his other fist—t'was the mulatto that had been with the Portuguese—when I saw Violet Hyde dart forward between me and the stars, throwing her large shawl round his head and amar white as dea away white as death. The mutatto toosered his grasp and jumped up, throwing her realing back to the door; but I was on my feet as soon as he, twisting his hatchet from his grip, and sent the edge of it with all my force clean down into his brain, through cashmere and everything. Ere he had time to pull it off, he was stretched, breast and knees up, over the carron. ade slide at my feet.

The dear girl had fainted; I lifted her and

The dear girl had nance; in the round-house, my heart swelling toward her in a way no man can tell; though there was not a moment to stay—for when I reached the wheel again, a sight broke upon me that showed the fearful danger we were in. The savages in the cuddy could be heard plunging out of the port to swim ashore; and though the ebb tide was taking the ship apparently clear round the wordy turn, she had no sooner opened the wide reach, where the fog was scattering before the breeze, than we began to see a streth of the nearest bank, off our starboard bow, glimmering out to a huge fire on the edge, that lighted up the thick white haze like sulphurthrowing a bloody red glow on the eddies inshore, with two or three black canoes dipping up and down in them; a crowd of dark naked negroes rushing round the fire, bringing logs and brarches to throw in, till up it blazed again; the sparks flying into the smke, the feathery black jungle sinking back behind, and the banyan branches shooting out into it, as if they were alive, licking the crimson gleams with their sharp leaves; while a horrible noise of tree drums beating, and buf, alo horms blowing, doated off to us. The wretches seemed to expect we were coming straight in to them: while they waited for us. And no wonder; for it wasn't till Jacobs came running aft, to tell the mate and me, that, to our horror, we found the canoes had got the rest of the cable fastened so mehow or other low down to her cutwater, and were cooly towing us in by it. We could neither cut it nor dispose of them, as at every shot there were plenty more to fill places; while the helm was only enough to steer her, had she teen frse. "Jacobs," said I, "for heaven's sake bear a hand with two or three of these heavy shot in a hammock—let's sling it out to the flying jibboom end, and I'll stand by to drep it fair over them—quick!"

Three of us ran out from the bowsprit, with the end of the line, swinging out the weight of shot full slap upon them, crash through their gunwales, leaving no more tha

ward the river's mouth, m the other hand, apon her copper cominogether for a little to Jacoba and I, then out of pure wearlinung over the scobe in to take the wheel loose the first signals—for the Indiaman had note, tille of current and breeze astern ot her, and at her fast towards the bar, as I guessed; the the second mate let her yaw dreadfully, a rom fear of going wrong. As for the schomer, we could a ske out her lights through the fog, the wind barging us the sound of her cutwater—shough probably they couldn't know where abouts we were; so I hoped she might perhaps go past us in the dark, if she were actually in chase of the Indiaman, as I feared. However, the moment the cheep of our flying-jib hanks on the stay was heard, as the sail was hoisted, a sharp hail came along the water.

Experience of a Lady on a Wedding Town to the "sacred soil" of Old Virginia. Visit to the Persia. The Continental. The City of Brotherly Love. Baltimore Trip to Ford McHenry. Description of the Fortifications

of Baltimore, &c., &c. WALLINGFORD, Conn., 16th Oct., 1861, To the Editor of the N. Y. Sun .- Dear Sir .-Of my journey from this my native town to New York, I have but an indistinct recelles. tion, surrounded as I was by numbers of agreeable friends and relations bound to the same

I left New York bright and early on one the warm and pleasant mornings for which the month has been noted, and passed safely over to the land of "Jersey," where, after visiting the steamship "Persia," and a pleasant ride of four hours on the railread, passing through New Brunswick and Trenton, I found myself snugly esconced in the elevator of the "Continental" Hotel, at Philadelphia, and was soon deposited near the door of the room to which I had been assigned. After a superb dinner, which I learn is invariably provid. ed by the enterprising proprietor of the "Continental," for its guests, I sallied out on a sight-

seeing excursion.

The United States mint, rendered doubly attractive at this time, from the increased rapidity with which the golden coins are manufactured for the payment of our army expenses, received my first attention, and having been shown the gelden bars valued at one thousand and two thousand dollars each, and the method of rolling and stamping

shown the gelden bars valued at one thousand and two thousand dollars each, and the method of rolling and stamping them; and seen huge piles of golden double eagles, counted with surprising accuracy and rapidity, by means of a pair of delicate balances, and whisked away on trucks to the strong room, I found my way to the museum of the establishment. After registering my name, which seemed to be the first thing required by the official in charge, I examined with much interest the large collection of ancient and medern, foreign and American coins. I also found here the autograph of George Washington, and the portraits of a number of the distinguished men of the early days of our Republic, and various other objects of interest.

My visit to the beautiful cemetery of Laurel, Hill, about three miles northerly from the ward on the Schuylkill River, is the of the pleasantest remembrances of my tour. Situated on elevated ground, interspersed with hills and dales, covered with a great diversity of foliage extending parhape over twenty-five acres, its beautiful views, its irregularity, the placed Schuylkill forming its boundary on one side, and its sculptured monuments, renders it one of the most interesting of our country's cemeteries.

My first visit to the "Monumental City" was short, but to me full of incident. Passing by rail through Wilmington and Havre de Grace, and encountering at every turn regiments of soldiers—some in camp, some on the march, and some in cars, together with war material of every kind, and in every possible position, reached Baltimore at the end of a four hours ride. Provided, as we had been by kind friends, with a lotter of introduction to the efficient communer of this important military department, Major General Dix, whose headquarters are at Fort Methenry, Host notime in its presentation, and reasived from him the most politic attention. About two thousand men, regulars and volunteers, now constitute the garrison, but this number is almost daily either increased or diminished. The ramparts,

containing a circular stairway in the interior, and is surmounted by a colessal statute of Washington sixteen feet in height.

Provided with letters from General Dix, I visited "Federal Hill and "Potters Hill," Baltimore, I found Federal Hill, (which was first fortified by the Government at the suggestion of Gen. Dix, and since he assumed command of of this department, to be a prominent elevation about one and a half miles nearer the city than Fort McHenry, and, mounting as it does, a number of ten inch "Columbiads"—apparently the favorite gun of this department—its ability to demolish every house in Baltimore, and lead any of its erring inhabitants back to the paths of quietness, if necessary, is not doubted. The fortifications of "Potter's Hill" are not of equal importance, and a visit to them concluded my sight-seeing at this point. They are yet in construction, and, when completed, are expected to add greatly to the means now at command for the defence of the city against either internal or external enemies, Yours, with respect, Yours, with respect, Mrs. W. Y. B.

The New Orleans Engagement.

REBEL FIRE SHIPS.

THE PIRATES BEATEN OFF BY TWO GUNS.

From South West Pass, New Orleans, Oct. 14. -An attack was made on the night of the 12th inst., on the United States fleet laying at anchor near the South West Pass, by the rebel fleet, consisting of six gun boats, the battering ram Manassas, and a large number of fire ships which filled the river from shore to shore.

The United States fleet consisted of the steamers Richmond, Huntsville, Water Witch, sloops. of war Preble and Vincennes, and storeship Nightingale. The fleet, when attacked, were at anchor inside of the Pass. The ram Manas-sas came down and drifted foul of the Richs mond, knecking a hele in her quarter and stern. doing but little damage. To avoid the fire ships the squadron immediatety got under weigh and drifted down the river.

The Richmord, Preble and Vincennes got ashore on the bar (the Nightingale also went ashore,) and while ashore were attacked by the rebels, but without doing any damage to the vessels, or to life. But one shot took effect and that struck the Richmond on the quarter. They were beaten off by the Vincennes with two guns she having thrown overboard the rest of her armament, with her chains, anchors, &c., to lighten her, as she was very much exposed to

the rebel fire.

The squadron has no one killed or wounded. The Richmond, Preble and Vincennes w towed off the next day by the steamship Clellan, which opportunely arrived. She rest ed considerable damage to her stern fryas getting them off. The Nightingale & c ashore when the McClellan left, and ver bably be gotten off next day by the en. steamers connected with the fleet. Td. States frigate Niagara arrived e. ...

14th. The McClellan brings sett Pensacola, who escaped T' forces to be about eight The army was poor